Autumn Term Newsletter 2026

CHAPLAINCY



It has been an exciting start to the year for the new chaplaincy team at Our Lady's Catholic College. Francis and Fr Stephen have been getting to know the students in the GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) group and the Caritas Club. For the Sixth Form the year began with their induction day at Lancaster University, with a service of welcome. They were invited to tie their dreams and visions for the future to a three-cord rope representing, Faith, Hope and Love, before a morning of sport.



On the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary blue skies blessed us as Fr Stephen celebrated our feast day Mass for each year group. "The best way to get to know someone is by talking to their mum": a gentle introduction to the power of the Rosary.

At the prize giving evening, pupils showcased their musical talent and celebrated the success of the Uganda fundraising project alongside receiving their academic awards. Francis was honoured to present the Damian Bates Catholic Life of the School Award and the Anthony Finnerty Catholic Life of the School Award to Chloe Brayshaw and Treasure Uformadu.



"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten we belong to one another." St Mother Teresa of Kolkata



This September and October the assemblies and form prayer have been themed around the virtues of the term: Hope, Temperance and Solidarity. Celebrating the Season of Creation, the pupils reflected on the precious gift of water. Even as they trudged into assembly soaked by the Lancashire rain, they were able to appreciate the fruits of the school's fundraising in Uganda: a solar powered water pump built for the inhabitants of Ruguburi.







At the beginning of the half-term, the Cartitas club made a trip to The Olive Branch to learn about the important work of this local charity. They asked excellent questions and were clearly moved by the cause. In their feedback assembly, they reflected on the original founding vision based on Romans 11 and the Olive Branch's commitment not only to feed but to befriend and accompany people out of poverty, in collaboration with the debt relief organisation, Christians Against Poverty. The appeal snowballed in a non-uniform day and house competition, culminating in a massive haul of food donations piled up in the entrance hall.

The food appeal culminated in one of the highlights of the term. Year 9 made a human 'food chain', lining up along the pavement to Father's House, over the road from school, to pass the tins along. Half the donations went to Father's House, and the other half were delivered to the Olive Branch in the minibus.



This half-term, as we journey towards advent, the students will have lots of opportunities to come together in prayer, reflection and preparation. The choir are rehearsing their harmonies for the Advent service at St Joseph's and the Caritas club will participate in the Bishop's "Year of Listening" on the theme of God's love for the poor....

Coming up soon...

November 13th, 7pm - 7am - Sixth Form sponsored sleep out in aid of Lancaster District Homeless Action Service (LDHAS)

December 10th 6pm - Advent Service, St Joseph's Church, with carols, music, and performances from pupils, followed by refreshments.

February 11th 7-8.30pm - SPARK Lancaster: new Catholic youth group for children in years 6-8, starting on Thursdays in the Education Centre next to Lancaster Cathedral.

February 22nd - 26th - Castlerigg Retreat for year 10s, (more information coming soon).

March 3rd-5th - Hyning Retreat for years 12 and 13.

"Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste." St Francis of Assisi, the Canticle of the Creatures



"The value of life does not depend upon the space we occupy, it depends upon how we occupy that space," St Therese of Lisieux

